



Toward Elimination

Newsletter for State Partners in HAI Prevention

April 2010

New Leadership



Arjun Srinivasan, MD, is the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion's infection detection and prevention specialist. After years of managing healthcare outbreaks, Dr. Srinivasan was recently charged with

spearheading the Division's HAI prevention partnerships and efforts, including maximizing the impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) funding.

"It is an honor to take on a role that will enable us to see the whole picture and maximize our efficiencies," said Srinivasan. "The field of HAI prevention is growing and, as it grows, it is becoming more complex. Thus, we need to coordinate activities related to HAI prevention within the division and with our external partners to ensure

our partners have science and support they need to implement effective prevention strategies."

To ensure that channels of communication between states and CDC are open and easy to access, each state has a designated Public Health Advisor (PHA). States are encouraged to contact their PHAs and inform them of their HAI prevention efforts and to seek advisement from the CDC. The PHA will serve as a gateway and a clearinghouse of information to make the vast collective knowledge at CDC available to all partners.

"My goal is to see that we don't have parallel efforts, but that we use our resources to collaborate and enhance opportunities. At the end of the day, the patients are the winners as a result of our efforts. "We've made great strides in HAI prevention. I look forward to watching Recovery Act efforts further propel prevention work that makes our healthcare system safer for both patients and providers," said Srinivasan.

Coming Up...

SSI Infection Specific Call for ELC/EIP Grantees April 12, 2010, 1PM-2PM ET

MRSA Infection Specific Call for ELC/EIP Grantees April 19, 2010, 1PM-2PM ET

CLABSI Infection Specific Call for ELC/EIP Grantees April 26, 2010, 1PM-2PM ET

C. diff Infection Specific Call for ELC/EIP Grantees April 27, 2010, 1PM-2PM ET

CAUTI Infection Specific Call for ELC/EIP Grantees April 29, 2010, 1PM-2PM ET

Your PHAs will send the bridge-line, password, and Webinar URL information for these calls.

State Highlight

IOWA

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) received more than \$880,000 in Recovery Act funds to help Iowa hospitals prevent, reduce, and report HAIs.

Last year, the Iowa HAI Prevention Steering Committee met and guided the writing of the HAI Prevention Action Plan. The plan identified two infection targets: *Clostridium difficile* and catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) related to hospitalization.

Iowa's HAI Prevention Action Plan can be found on a newly created

Web site designed to help the general public and healthcare professionals learn more about HAIs. For resources, updates on grant activities, and progress of the committee's HAI prevention plan visit www.idph.state.ia.us/hai_prevention.

Be sure to join CDC's new Safe Healthcare blog

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/SafeHealthcare>



Watch CDC experts on Medscape



Policy Corner

RECOVERY ACT

In anticipation of potential requests from partners and policy makers, CDC's DHQP is preparing materials outlining Recovery Act program activities. A Recovery Act Progress Report is currently being created and will give a brief overview of states' activities. State success highlights will be a key element within this document. Stay tuned.